



**Date:** March 10, 2006  
**To:** Members of the Marine Advisory Commission  
**From:** Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches  
**Subject:** MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2006  
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

---

Commissioners Present

Richard L. Miller, Chair  
Bradley Whyte, Vice Chair  
Mike Malbon  
Holly Carpenter  
Harry Hutton  
Randy Crawford  
Peter Hogenson

Commissioners Absent

Mike Reed

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager  
Vivian Crook, Secretary

City Staff

Jeff Edwards, Supt. Maint. Oper. Bureau  
Mark Boone, Chief, Marine Safety, LBFD  
Tom Keleher, LBPD Sergeant, Marine Patrol  
Col. R.W.Schroeder, LBPD, K9 West  
Dan Gooch, Acting Councilperson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
Avonne Gravel, Analyst, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
Julie Maleki, Analyst, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
Betty Davenport

Guests

Fred Khammar, Beach Ventures, Inc.  
Mike O'Toole, Beach Ventures, Inc.  
Amy Bently-Smith, Grunion Gazette  
Jeff Merrick  
William Larkin  
Dick Perkins  
Victor Noiron  
Kathy Perkins  
Theresa Gleason  
Tom Gilbert  
Wayne Ivy  
Doug Eagerton  
Gary Nordyke  
Greg Aargon  
Will Hayes  
Ted Kuhn

Chairman Miller convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m., at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

## **ROLL CALL**

Mark Sandoval called the roll of commissioners and introduced Marine Bureau personnel and City staff.

Mark Sandoval recognized Julie Maleki, Administrative Aide to Councilman Colonna. Avonne Gravel will be retiring in April and moving to Maryland. Chairman Miller thanked Avonne for her good work done over the years, and for her attendance at the monthly MAC meetings.

Mark Sandoval also recognized Dan Gooch who has been appointed by the Mayor to temporarily fill the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Council seat until the election. Dan offered his services and that of his staff, during his interim tenure. Chairman Miller mentioned that Dan worked with Public Works and then the Fire Department and has been a long-time public servant for the City.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The February 9, 2006, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Corporal Robert Schroeder of the LBPD Canine Unit's Special Enforcement Section addressed the MAC. Corporal Schroeder works out of the West Division and covers the beach, bike path, and beach parking lots for approximately a half hour to one hour each shift. He recommended that the Lifeguard stations be numbered odd on the south side of the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier and even on the north side of the Pier, and talked about the safety advantages to doing this. He also recommended that more and better signage needs to be placed on the beaches, i.e., at the top of the stairwell and the beach parking lot entrances, informing the public of beach hour restrictions.

Chairman Miller thanked Corporal Schroeder for attending the meeting and agreed that the guard towers on the beach should be numbered, as they are in Marine Stadium. Also, additional notice to the public that the beaches are restricted between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. is a good recommendation.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mark Sandoval spoke to the MAC regarding the Annual Report and asked the commissioners for input under the "Observation" section. He said that he would have the report finalized for approval next month. It would then be sent to the City Council in May.

Chairman Miller said that he would talk to the sub-committee chairs about providing a report from each committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Crawford reported that the Operations Committee discussed at length the slip fees for Basin 8, and said that issues were brought to their attention that they had not previously been aware of.

Commissioner Malbon reported that the Facilities Committee also reviewed the fee issue. He stated that the fee issue for Basin 8 raised other questions regarding the rate structure of the marinas in entirety, and that the committee felt that Basin 8 boatowners were due some relief.

Commissioner Hutton reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the difference in fees within the marinas, the strong current, and the park not being completed.

Mark Sandoval said that the fundamental issue discussed in all the meetings is that the City needs some relationship between the rates in various areas of our larger marina system, a relationship with regard to new slips versus old slips and a relationship between small slips and big slips. He said a well thought out pricing policy is needed. He stated that he needs to make sure that the marina is run in a business like fashion. He said it would take a month or two to develop a pricing policy and that, in the interim, the MAC seems willing to address Basin 8 fees immediately and provide some kind of recommendation. The committees agreed to a \$16 per foot rate (roughly 17% less). Mark Sandoval said he would support a non-retroactive reduction under 20%, so that he would not have to go before the City Council. Once the pricing policy is developed, there might be a change in Basin 8 and will probably be recommending changes throughout the system. In summary he would support, with the approval of the Director and the City Manager, going down to \$16 per foot in Basin 8.

**It was moved by Commissioner Malbon and seconded by Commissioner Crawford that the MAC support a non-retroactive reduction in Basin 8 slip fees to \$16 per foot effective April 1, with the understanding that this is an interim adjustment pending development of a pricing policy. The motion passed unanimously**

Commissioner Whyte stated that the marinas are becoming more desirable with every bit of work and money that the City is putting into them. He said the whole system needs to be looked at so that it can be priced properly for everyone. He felt that \$16 was a reasonable reduction to put in place, while the system is being looked at.

Commissioner Hutton stated that he has been an advocate of cost-based pricing, and that this comes pretty close to what he considers to be cost-based pricing.

Dick Perkins expressed displeasure with the MAC's decision and said that they should be paying the same rate as LBSM and it should be retroactive.

Commissioner Whyte reminded Mr. Perkins that he chose to put his boat in Basin 8 because there were no other slips available at the time, and that he and the other Basin 8 boatowners jumped ahead of the Waiting List to get in to Basin 8. They accepted those rates when they put their boats there. No one forced them to take the slips.

Dick Perkins said that the slip rate was determined with a completed park.

Mark Sandoval responded that funding for the park is separate from funding for the marinas, they are two separate budgets, and the park was not part of the determining factor in reaching the slip fee for Basin 8

Mr. Perkins asked if Basin 8 boatowners should expect to have CPI increases.

Mark Sandoval responded that the decision would be made during the budget process.

Mr. Perkins said that the \$16 rate is discriminatory.

Chairman Miller stated that an ad-hoc committee would be formed of MAC commissioners who will do a price study. He said that Mr. Perkins statements were received, but that the MAC has come to a decision and made a recommendation, which has been presented and can be accepted or rejected. He said the boatowners brought some very valid points before the MAC, which have been reviewed and an interim decision has been made.

Mark Sandoval stated that there is less of a demand for slips in LBSM, and he clarified that there is not a pricing policy in place at this time. He said there is a pricing strategy, which is the market-based approach. A pricing policy is going to be developed that analyzes the relationship between the price of slips in the various areas of the City. He does feel that ABM is the best area in the system because there is more of a demand there, and that Basin 8 is the best area in ABM because there are 30 slips with gated parking, a bathroom, and a soon to be park. Mark brought out the marketing sign that was used at the boat shows. The poster does not show the park, or make any reference to it. He said that the park was not a big selling point of Basin 8 or it would have been listed with the marketing sign.

Mark Sandoval explained that the City Council has to approve a decrease in fees if it is more than 20%. The City Council annually reviews fee issues during the annual budgetary process. Within the next couple of months a pricing policy will be in place. Any rate changes will go forward in the budget process and take effect on October 1.

Mr. Perkins was very upset that, as he said, the MAC did not charge a premium for the new concrete slips downtown.

Commissioner Whyte said that the MAC never said that they would not look at the pricing of LBSM slips once the marina was completed. He explained that if prices were raised as each gangway was completed, boatowners would be trying to transfer from one gangway to the next to delay paying the higher price as long as possible.

Commissioner Hutton remarked that the 1997 Marina Strategic Plan discussed the marina rebuild and said that the plan was stated in that plan that boatowners would be willing to pay more for a completed marina, not before.

Mark Sandoval stated that work on the park is scheduled to be completed Spring 2007, and he clarified that the park was never seeded, as one of the boatowners had thought.

Jeff Edwards explained that the Hydro-seed machine was used to keep the dust down, not to seed the area. He said that Maintenance recently put a fence up to cut down on traffic through the area. Hopefully this will help to keep the dust down.

- Fred Khammar gave an update on the progress of the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier. He distributed a color report to the MAC, which he reviewed. He said that they (Michael O'Toole/Beach Ventures, Inc.) might be going before the City Council with their concept next month. He said that many of their dreams are now approaching reality.

He introduced Betty Davenport of Partners of Parks, a non-profit organization, who explained how people would be able to purchase a Memorial Bench (\$2,500 each with inscription) and Medallions (\$250 each with inscription). Four benches have been sold so far. She distributed brochures to the MAC.

- Mark Sandoval asked the MAC how they wanted to work through the development of a pricing policy.

Chairman Miller said that he would like to develop an ad-hoc committee of the MAC, which will report to the Finance Committee, which will in turn report to the MAC. He asked Commissioner Malbon, Commissioner Hutton and Commissioner Crawford to sit on the committee.

Mark Sandoval said that the City's budget process has already started, and that he would like the pricing policy to come before the MAC in May, so that he can bring back a recommendation in June, to be put forward into the City's budget process.

## **BUREAU MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Marina Operations Report**

Mark Sandoval gave the report for the Marine Bureau Major Accomplishments, the Monthly Fund Budget Report for ABM/LBSM/RBH, the Total Vessels In and Out by Marina, and the Slip Status Report for the month of February.

- Mark Sandoval stated that next month staffing will be rearranged to double the capacity of writing new permits.
- Mark Sandoval reported that the 42' boat in Basin 8 will move to a 45-foot slip in Basin 8 and will fit the under sizing policy.

### Maintenance Operations Report

Jeff Edwards gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of February.

- A bathometric survey will be done at the South Shore Launch Ramp because of silting in that area.
- Commissioner Hutton asked where the trash on the beach is taken.

Jeff Edwards responded that while the debris is wet it is raked in to piles, once it dries it is sifted and then taken to the dump by truck. In order to pay a lower price, the wet debris is allowed to dry, as wet debris weighs more than dry.

- The Preventative Maintenance Crew has been freed up to attend to ABM issues, until the rebuild starts in this area.

### Marine Safety Report

Chief Mark Boone gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of February.

- The new rescue boat will be launched next Wednesday.
- The Lifeguard exam is set for March 19.
- The Queen Mary II came in to Long Beach. Lifeguards had performed a security search on the boat's bottom in the Port of LA.
- The Junior Lifeguard Program will cost \$330 per child (\$20 discount for families with multiple kids). The Long Beach program still has the lowest fee on the West Coast. MSO Scott Dixon is the new director.

### Marine Patrol Report

LBPD Sergeant Tom Keleher reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of February.

- Sergeant Keleher reported that the arrival of the Queen Mary II was an event much like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Sergeant Keleher thanked Mark Sandoval and Jeff Edwards for helping Marine Patrol with security issues. Everything Marine Patrol asks for (i.e., locks/gates) gets done and makes the Patrol Division's job much easier.
- Commissioner Malbon said that he heard that boats had been broken into on Dock FF in LBSM. Sergeant Keleher responded that he knew of nothing reported, and that things have been pretty quiet. He said that he would check into it. Mark Sandoval remarked that the Maintenance Policy has been changed and court referrals are not allowed in the area without supervision.
- Sergeant Keleher reported on one new hire, which should work out well. He said that it takes six months to process someone, because of extensive background checks and training. He said that better trained people are coming on board.

### Executive MAC

- All items covered.

### Operations Committee

- All items covered.

### Facilities Committee

- Commissioner Hutton reported that the issue regarding trash in the water in LBSM was discussed. He said that the trash appears to be moving out. Once the rebuild is complete, the issue regarding water flow and trash will be made clearer.

### Finance Committee

- Commissioner Hutton distributed the financial report covering two meetings. He asked that the MAC review the report and, if they had any questions, he would get the answers.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

- None

### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

- Mark Sandoval reported that an invitation has been extended to the MAC to attend the Shoreline Yacht Club Opening Day Ceremonies this Sunday.
- Commissioner Crawford commended Commissioner Malbon for his work on the pricing committee.

Commissioner Malbon said that the MAC needs to be thoughtful in their approach and have everyone's input before making any decisions.

Chairman Miller thanked all Commissioners for their time and work these last weeks; he stated they did an excellent job.

- Chairman Miller asked the Commissioners to look at page two of the MAC Annual Report under Powers and Duties. He reminded the MAC that when they talk to the public, they can express their personnel opinion, but not to speak for the Commission. He also asked that they let him, and Mark, know if they distribute information to the public so that all can be working off the same page.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is set for April 13, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. at the Shoreline Yacht Club.

cc: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
City Clerk